



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ♦ Emergency Medical ♦ Parks & Recreation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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To: News Editors

From: Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD)

SUBJECT: FIRE CHIEF ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

Elk Grove, CA – After six years at the Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department and over 30 years of service to the Sacramento region, Fire Chief Mark Meaker today announced his intention to retire from the California Fire Service effective May 1.

“Looking back on all that we have accomplished together, as well as forward to what the District is about to achieve, it has become evident to me that I have contributed what I had to give when I became your Fire Chief six years ago,” said Meaker in a letter addressed to CSD Board members and the General Manager. “Largely because of your combined efforts in working with the personnel of the Fire Department, I feel I am at the “top of my game,” that the Department is in great shape, and that the appropriate time has arrived for me to gracefully depart and give someone else the opportunity to assist you in further enhancing the Department and the District.”

Meaker was hired as Elk Grove CSD Fire Chief in July of 1997. His leadership during a high-growth period helped guide the Department through the construction and opening of three new fire stations, the hiring of 40 new personnel, and fostered dramatic improvements in emergency response times. Issues such as a terrorist threat against Suburban Propane and the proposed development of Lent Ranch Mall have been among the high-profile issues Chief Meaker has addressed during his tenure. Programs instituted within the Department during his time at the CSD include the deployment of the medic bike team for large community events and the “Firefighter Wellness and Fitness” program.

“Elk Grove firefighters have always enjoyed good labor management relations. Labor has appreciated Chief Meaker’s openness to dialogue and his willingness to accept input from Fire Department personnel,” said Local 522 Elk Grove Representative, Captain Ron Gangl. “I feel we have benefited greatly from his time here. I can speak for the entire unit when I say that we wish him well in his new venture.”

Chief Meaker and his family will move to Logan, Utah – a move they have dreamed of for many years. Retirement from the California fire service also allows Chief Meaker to take advantage of a job offer from Logan City Fire and Rescue to become their Fire Chief. Meaker will start at Logan in May. Logan’s fire department protects nearly 100,000 people living in Logan and four surrounding towns within Cache County. The department employs 39 first responders and operates one fire station. A second fire station is scheduled for construction within the next year.

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“Mark has been a very valuable asset to the Elk Grove Community Services District and our Fire Department,” said Elk Grove CSD General Manager Rita Velasquez. “I wish him and his family all the best in their new adventure.”

Chief Meaker’s work leading up to his retirement has paved the way for the completion of several additional Fire Department projects within the next two years including the construction of a state-of-the art training facility and relocation of Fire Station 72 from Hood Franklin Road to the East Franklin area. The CSD will continue to move these projects forward under Velasquez’s direction and the new Fire Chief.

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